

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. Added text is underlined and deleted text is either struck through or shown in double enclosing brackets. Applicants aver that no new matter has been added.

1. (Currently Amended) An interactive digital programming system, said interactive digital programming system comprising:
a viewer television reception system to receive interactive programming, the interactive programming comprising a plurality of digitally compressed video, audio, branching codes and graphics signals, the reception system comprising:
 - a first input, ~~said first input~~ to receive interactive programming comprising a stream of said plurality of digitally compressed video, audio, branching codes and graphics signals;
 - a viewer interface to receive user input from a viewer, said user input from said viewer requested as an interrogatory when an interactive program begins or when said viewer first tunes in said interactive program;
 - a microprocessor, responsive to the viewer interface, to select at least one of the video, audio, or graphics signals from said first input and direct a switch to the selected at least one video, audio, or graphics signals, the selection of the selected at least one video, audio, or graphics signals a function of the branching codes and the input from the viewer;
 - a decompressor/decoder, to decompress the selected at least one video, audio, or graphics signals; and
 - an encoder to output the selected at least one video, audio, or graphics signal.
2. (Previously Presented) The interactive digital programming system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the plurality of digitally compressed video signals from said first input corresponds to different predetermined camera angles of an event.

3. (Previously Presented) The interactive digital programming system as set forth in claim 1, wherein the microprocessor selects one of the graphics signals at a predetermined time, the selection of the graphics signal a function of the branching codes and the input from the viewer, and further comprising an encoder, connected to the microprocessor, for presenting the selected graphics signal on a display.
4. (Previously Presented) The interactive digital programming system as set forth in claim 1, wherein at least one interrogatory to the viewer, the content of the interrogatory involving program options, and the input from the viewer correspond to collected input from the viewer via the viewer interface in response to the interrogatories.

5. (Previously Presented) An interactive digital programming system, said interactive digital programming system comprising:

a viewer television reception system to receive interactive programming, the interactive programming comprising a plurality of digitally compressed video, audio, branching codes and graphics signals, the reception system comprising:

a first input, said first input to receive said interactive programming comprising a stream of said plurality of digitally compressed video, audio, branching codes and graphics signals;

memory, said memory to store a set of answers from a viewer to an interrogatory, said interrogatory presented when an interactive program begins or when said viewer first tunes into said interactive program;

a microprocessor, to select at least one of the video, audio, or graphics signals from said first input and direct a switch to the selected at least one video, audio, or graphics signals, the selection of the selected at least one video, audio, or graphics signals a function of the branching codes and the stored set of answers;

a decompressor/decoder, to decompress the selected at least one video, audio, or graphics signals; and

an output circuit to output the selected at least one video, audio, or graphics signal.

6. (Previously Presented) The interactive digital programming system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the plurality of digitally compressed video signals from said first input correspond to different predetermined camera angles of an event.

7. (Currently Amended) The interactive digital programming system as set forth in claim 5, wherein the microprocessor selects one of the graphics signals at a predetermined time, the selection of the graphics signal a function of the branching codes and the ~~viewer profile~~ stored set of answers, and further comprising an output circuit, connected to the microprocessor, for presenting the selected graphics signal on a display.

8. (Previously Presented) An interactive digital programming system, said interactive digital programming system comprising:

a viewer television reception system to receive interactive programming, the interactive programming comprising a plurality of digitally compressed video, audio, branching codes, and Internet addresses, the reception system comprising:

a first input, said first input to receive interactive programming comprising a stream of said plurality of digitally compressed video, audio, branching codes and graphics signals;

a viewer interface to receive viewer entries, said viewer entries requested as an interrogatory when an interactive program begins or when said viewer first tunes in said interactive program;

a microprocessor, connected to the viewer interface, to select at least one of video, audio, or graphics signals and directing a switch to the selected at least one video, audio, or graphics signals from said first input, the selection of the at least one video, audio, or graphics signals a function of the branching codes and the received viewer entries; and

an output circuit to output the selected at least one video, audio, or graphics signals.

9. (Previously Presented) The interactive digital programming system as set forth in claim 8, said interactive digital programming system further comprising:

a decompressor/decoder, for decompressing the demultiplexed selected at least one video, audio, or graphics signals.

10. (Previously Presented) The interactive digital programming system as set forth in claim 8, wherein the plurality of digitally compressed video signals from said first input correspond to a different predetermined camera angle of an event.

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11. (Previously Presented) The interactive digital programming system as set forth in claim 8, wherein the output circuit provides a viewer interface to display at least one interrogatory to the viewer, the content of the interrogatory involving program options, and the viewer entries correspond to collected entries from the viewer via the viewer interface in response to the interrogatories.
12. (Previously Presented) The interactive digital programming system as set forth in claim 8, wherein the interactive programming further comprises a plurality of graphics signals and the microprocessor selects one of the graphics signals at a predetermined time, the selection of the graphics signal a function of the branching codes and the viewer profile.
13. – 17. (Cancelled)
18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein each branching code includes a header to identify a trigger point in the digitally compressed signals.
19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 18, wherein the trigger point is one of multiple triggers positioned at various points in the interactive programming.
20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein each branching code further includes a function identifier to designate the set of executable instructions.
21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein at least one of the branching codes is part of an authoring language, which is a set of interactive data codes to facilitate an interactive process.
22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein the branching codes are to branch between interactive options and related features.

23. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 8, wherein at least one branching code further includes information of a user profile, the user profile stored in the memory storage unit.
24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein the user profile includes user preferences selected by the user at the onset of the interactive programming.
25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~[[23]]~~ 24, wherein the user preferences selected by the user are in response to interrogatory messages.